

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 STATE 184208 TOSEC 080130
ORIGIN PA-02

INFO OCT-01 PRS-01 ISO-00 SS-15 SSO-00 CCO-00 /019 R

DRAFTED BY PA/M: M D ROKEY

APPROVED BY PA/M: L HYDLE

S/S:JETHYDEN

DESIRED DISTRIBUTION

PA, S/S, S/PRS

-----114335 051702Z /53

O 051538Z AUG 77 ZFF4

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS STATE 184208 TOSEC 080130

FOR CARTER FROM PA

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOPN, OVIP (VANCE)

SUBJECT: PRESS MATERIAL

1. HEREWITH FULL TEXT MICHAEL GETLER BY-LINER WASHINGTON
POST FRIDAY AUGUST 5 HEADED "BONN IS DISTURBED OVER REPORT
OF U.S. 'PULLBACK POLICY'."

2. BONN, AUG. 4--DESPITE A BARRAGE OF OFFICIAL DENIALS
AND REASSURANCES FROM WASHINGTON, THE REPORT BY COLUMNISTS
EVANS AND NOVAK THAT WHITE HOUSE ADVISERS ARE SUGGESTING A
STRATEGY CONCEDED THE LOSS OF ONE-THIRD OF WEST GERMANY
TO A SOVIET ATTACK HAS SOWN ANXIETY AND SOME DISTRUST
HERE.

3. "THE PROFESSIONAL OFFICER CORPS," SAYS ONE HIGH-RANK-
ING WEST GERMAN OFFICER, "IS NOT TROUBLED BECAUSE THEY
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 STATE 184208 TOSEC 080130

KNOW THAT SUCH A PLAN IS NONSENSE. BUT IT HAS NEVERTHE-
LESS CAUSED DISTRUST AND SOME LOSS OF CONFIDENCE" IN AMER-
ICAN THINKING.

4. A SENIOR WEST GERMAN OFFICER AT HEADQUARTERS OF THE
NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANIZATION IN BELGIUM SAID:

5. "AFTER YOU HAVE BELIEVED IN SOMETHING LIKE THE AMERICAN COMMITMENT TO DEFEND GERMANY FOR 25 YEARS, IT IS HARD TO SHAKE THE FAITH ON THE BASIS OF JUST ONE NEWSPAPER ARTICLE." BUT IT WAS SO DETAILED, HE CONTINUED, REFERRING TO THE COLUMNISTS' REPORT AND QUOTATIONS FROM A WHITE HOUSE MEETING, "THAT IT DOES MAKE YOU WONDER."

6. CONCERN HAS NOT BEEN REDUCED AS MUCH AS GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS HERE HAD HOPED IN PART BECAUSE BONN HAD EXPECTED THAT PRESIDENT CARTER--RATHER THAN HIS PRESS SPOKESMAN--WOULD PERSONALLY MAKE A STATEMENT REAFFIRMING THE U.S. POLICY OF FORWARD DEFENSE COVERING WEST GERMANY UP TO ITS BORDERS WITH COMMUNIST EAST EUROPE.

7. FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIALS HERE, ON THE BASIS OF TELEPHONE DISCUSSIONS WITH WASHINGTON YESTERDAY, INDICATED THAT FOREIGN MINISTER HANS-DIETRICH GENSCHER HAD BEEN TOLD THAT CARTER WOULD MAKE A PUBLIC STATEMENT YESTERDAY. "THE PRESIDENT SHOULD HAVE SAID SOMETHING," A SENIOR U.S. OFFICER SAID.

8. A NATO OFFICIAL CALLED THE NEWS ACCOUNT "THE WORST, MOST DANGEROUS THING I'VE SEEN IN THE NEWSPAPERS IN YEARS. IT REVIVES THE WHOLE QUESTION AGAIN ABOUT THE BASIS OF THE AMERICAN COMMITMENT, THE OLD DOUBTS ABOUT WHETHER WE WOULD EXCHANGE PHILADELPHIA FOR HAMBURG."
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 STATE 184208 TOSEC 080130

9. HAMBURG, IN FACT, SYMBOLIZES FOR WEST GERMANS THE MEANING OF VIEWS SUCH AS THOSE REPORTEDLY EXPRESSED IN THE CLASSIFIED WHITE HOUSE STUDY.

10. THE STUDY, ACCORDING TO THE COLUMNISTS, SUGGESTS AS AN OPTIONAL U.S. STRATEGY THE LOWERING OF DEFENSE SPENDING, AND THE SETTING UP OF A LINE FORMED BY THE WESER AND LECH RIVERS AS THE POINT BEYOND WHICH A COMMUNIST OFFENSIVE WOULD NOT BE ALLOWED TO GO. THIS WOULD SURRENDER ABOUT ONE-THIRD OF WEST GERMANY.

11. BUT PERHAPS ONE AMERICAN IN A MILLION KNOWS THAT SUCH CONCEDED TERRITORY INCLUDES BIG CITIES SUCH AS MUNICH, WITH MORE THAN 1 MILLION PEOPLE, AND HAMBURG--WHICH, IS NOT ONLY THE LARGEST WEST GERMAN CITY ASIDE FROM WEST BERLIN, WITH NEARLY 2 MILLION PEOPLE, BUT IS ALSO THE HOME OF CHANCELLOR HELMUT SCHMIDT.

12. "WE WOULD NEVER GO ALONG WITH THAT, NEVER," SAID A WEST GERMAN COMMANDER, "AND THE AMERICANS COULD NOT PULL BACK AND DEFEND ALONE. SEVENTY-FIVE PER CENT OF OUR ARMY

IS STATIONED IN THOSE AREAS. ALL OUR DEFENSE PLANNING AND TRAINING IS DIRECTED AT PROTECTING THEM."

13. "IF WE EVER TRIED TO PULL BACK LIKE THAT," MUSED ONE U.S. OFFICER, "WE'D BE TAKING FIRE FROM ALL FLANKS," IMPLYING THAT THE WEST GERMANS WOULD BE FIRING ON THE AMERICANS AS WELL.

14. WEST GERMAN OFFICIALS POINT OUT THAT AFTER THE FORMATION OF NATO IN 1949, THE MAIN LINE OF WESTERN DEFENSE WAS ALONG THE RHINE. THEN IT WAS MOVED FARTHER EAST TO THE WESER AND LECH RIVERS. BUT SINCE 1966, AS THE WEST GERMAN ARMED FORCES, OR BUNDESWEHR, BEGAN TO TAKE SHAPE AND GROW TO 500,000 MEN, THE LINE WAS MOVED STEADILY EASTWARD
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 STATE 184208 TOSEC 080130

TOWARD THE EAST GERMAN BORDER UNDER THE POLICY OF FORWARD DEFENSE.

15. "TO GO BACK TO 1966 IS IMPOSSIBLE," ONE OFFICER SAID. "THE BEST THING THE STUDY COULD DO IS CONFIRM THAT OUR CURRENT STRATEGY IS CORRECT."

16. THE LEAD EDITORIAL IN TODAY'S FRANKFURTER ALLGEMEINE NEWSPAPER ACCUSED THE NAMELESS U.S. ADVISERS OF "PLAYING WITH DANGEROUS THOUGHTS" AND SAID SUCH TENTATIVE OPTIONS REFLECT "AN ALARMING IGNORANCE OF THE REAL WORLD."

17. IF A MASSIVE ATTACK FROM THE EAST EVER CAME INTO DENSELY POPULATED WEST GERMANY, OBSERVERS BELIEVE, THERE WOULD BE ENORMOUS CHAOS AND A SITUATION THAT WOULD BE HARD TO CONTROL FROM THE FIRST SHOT. CERTAINLY THE WEST GERMANS WOULD NOT PULL BACK VOLUNTARILY OR SURRENDER BIG CITIES AND COUNTRYSIDE. NOR COULD THE SOVIETS BE EXPECTED TO ROLL THEIR FORMATIONS NEATLY INTO AREAS WHICH WOULD MAKE A WESER-LECH LINE ATTRACTIVE.

18. WEST GERMAN COMMENTATORS HAVE GENERALLY POINTED OUT THAT ASIDE FROM PURELY MILITARY MATTERS, DETERRENCE OF WAR IS A PSYCHOLOGICAL THING MAKING PUBLIC DISCUSSION OF SUCH A PULLBACK EXTREMELY RISKY.

19. YET, AS THE FRANKFURTER ALLGEMEINE SAID, "THE SOVIETS WILL NOT BENEFIT FROM THE WEST'S WEAKENING OF ITS DEFENSE READINESS BY TENTATIVE PLANS "BECAUSE ULTIMATELY THE DECISION TO INVADE, NO MATTER HOW TEMPTING, RUNS THE RISK OF QUICK ESCALATION TO ALL-OUT NUCLEAR WAR.

20. "WE HOPE PRESIDENT CARTER WILL KEEP HIS POLITICAL IN-
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 05 STATE 184208 TOSEC 080130

STINCT AND EUROPE WILL KEEP ITS COOL. AFTER THIS PSYCHO-
LOGICAL DISASTER, RESTORATION OF CONFIDENCE IS WHAT NATO
NEEDS FIRST OF ALL," THE PAPER SAID. CHRISTOPHER

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 05-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE184208
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: M D ROKEY
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770281-0587
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770891/aaaacyzv.tel
Line Count: 178
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 645be360-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN PA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 19-Oct-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1693547
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRESS MATERIAL
TAGS: SOPN, OVIP, (VANCE, CYRUS R)
To: SECRETARY IMMEDIATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/645be360-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009